

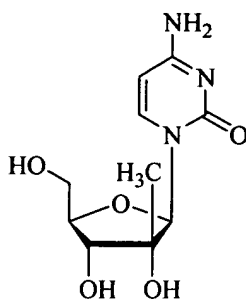
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

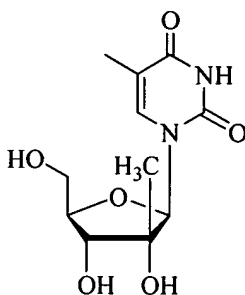
Claims 1-99 (cancelled)

Claim 100 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



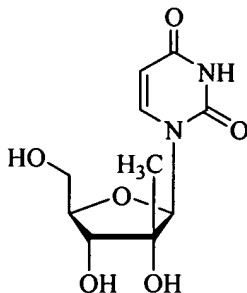
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 101 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 102 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 103-129 (cancelled)

Claim 130 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

Claim 131 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

Claim 132 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

Claim 133 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

Claim 134 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

Claim 135 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

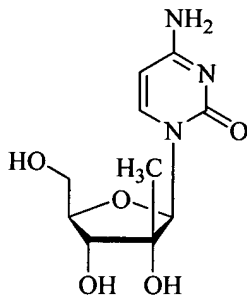
Claim 136 (cancelled)

Claim 137 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 ~~140-152~~, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 ~~140-152~~, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

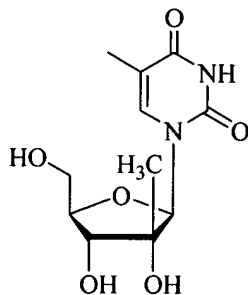
Claim 139 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, or 102, ~~or 146-152~~ wherein the host is a human.

Claim 140 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



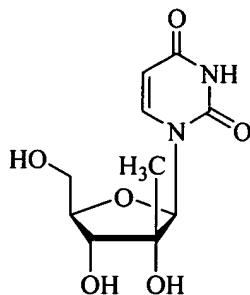
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 141 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



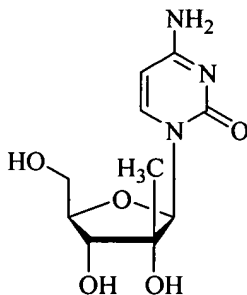
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 142 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



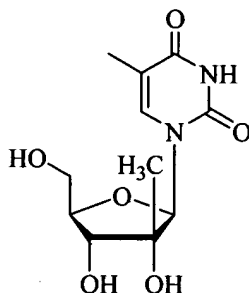
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 143 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



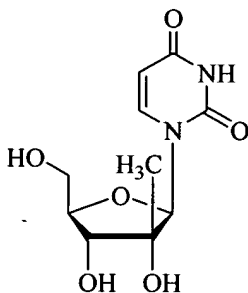
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 144 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 145 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 146 -156 (cancelled)

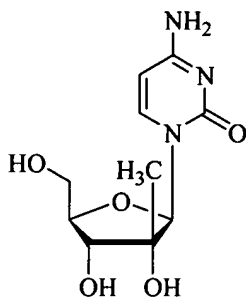
Claim 157 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145, wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer.

Claim 158 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145, wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer.

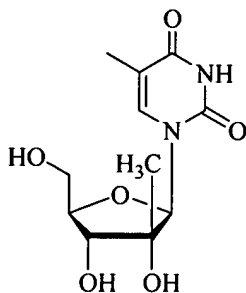
Claim 159 (currently amended): The method as in any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145  
145-150, wherein the compound is at least 85% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer.

Claims 160 - 179 (cancelled)

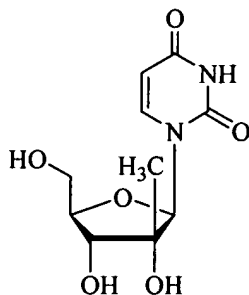
Claim 180 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 181 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 182 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 183 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 184 (previously presented): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine ribonucleoside.

Claim 185 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 183-184, wherein the host is a human.